(d) whether there is any Government machinery to monitor or scrutinize their working in order to see which agencies send them money and how the same is utilized by them; and

(e) whether Government have issued any guidelines to make their activities accountable and transparent; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Large number of NGOs funded by the Ministry are doing good work.

(b) There is no system of recognition or accreditation being followed in the Ministry.

(c) The following five NGOs receiving grant in aid from the Ministry were blacklisted during 2006-07:

(i) Central English Academy

(ii) Youth Mobilisation for National Advancement

(iii) Ayush Foundation

(iv) Gram Chetna Seva Samiti

(v) Adarsh Shivam Social Development Society

(d) and (e) The performance of the NGO is monitored on half yearly basis and through periodical inspections by Central/State Governments and designated agencies. Besides, detailed report which includes audited accounts, utilization certificates, annual reports, list of beneficiaries, list of staff etc. is also obtained and scrutinized. Subsequent to the evaluation of performance of NGOs and satisfactory inspection reports, the installments of grant in aid are released to them, after execution of the agreement bond.

Extension of concept of creamy layer for SCs/STs

687. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the concept of creamy layer exists in case of OBCs and not in the case of SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the justification therefor;

(c) the ill-effects likely to flow if the concept of creamy layer is invoked for the SCs/STs also;

(d) whether debarring the benefit of reservation to those who are already well off in the society, will help percolate the benefit of reservation to the really needy SCs/STs; and

(e) if so, Government's views in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Scheduled Castes population suffers from extreme social, educational and economic backwardness on account of traditional practice of untouchability. The Scheduled Tribes also suffer from geographical isolation and exclusion from the societal mainstream. Consequently, the concept of creamy layer has not been envisaged for SCs/STs.

Central assistance to Assam

688. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE **AND** EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special Central assistance sanctioned during 2004-06 for the welfare of Scheduled Castes/safai workers/other backward classes to Government of Assam and utilization thereof in response to schemes submitted by the State Government;

(b) whether her Ministry has accorded sanction of Central assistance towards welfare scheme for the physically handicapped to **NGOs** sponsored by Assam Government during 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The details of releases and utilization of Central assistance to Government of Assam are given below: